GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3447
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009
FUNDS FOR KUNO WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES
Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay;Tomar Shri Narendra Singh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has recommended to set up the Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh as a second home for the Gir lions;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the present status of the project;

(c) whether a large number of villages that were inside the Kuno reserve have been resettled;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the funds sanctioned, released and spent therefrom for the purpose; and

(f) the time by which the Kuno reserve is likely to be set up?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) The Wildlife Institute of India conducted a feasibility study for an alternate home for the Asiatic lion during 1993 at three potential sites, viz, Darrah-Jawahar Sagar (Rajasthan), Sitamata (Rajasthan) & Kuno Palpur (Madhya Pradesh). The study had identified Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary with an area of 344.686 Sq.Kms. as the best potential site for reintroduction of lions. Accordingly, in order to improve the habitat before the re-introduction of lions, various management interventions have been taken up in the Sanctuary, that included relocation of villages from the Sanctuary, strengthening protection, habitat improvement, etc.

(c) to (e) Based on the proposal received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh, Central Government, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme - Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, has already sanctioned and released Rs.1545 lakh by 2007-08 for the relocation and rehabilitation of families from 24 Revenue villages in Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary. As per the information received from the State Government, out of this, an amount of Rs. 1453 lakhs has been spent and 1543 families from 24 Revenue villages have been relocated from the Sanctuary.

(f) Kuno Palpur is already a Wildlife Sanctuary. It enjoys all the protection as provided under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.